

We Claim:

1. A universal remote control ("URC") to control at least one electronic appliance, comprising:

a housing;

5 a control circuitry which, responsive to a user's command, remotely controls the operation of the at least one electronic appliance, the control circuitry being located within the housing;

a digital voice recorder, disposed within the housing, which records and plays back at least one audio signal, responsive to a user's command.

10 2. The URC according to claim 1, wherein the digital voice recorder comprises:

a microphone to receive the audio signal;

a processor to process the received signal;

15 a memory to store the processed received signal;

a speaker to play back the audio signal, and

control circuitry to operate the digital voice recorder upon the user's command.

20 3. A universal remote control ("URC") to control at least one electronic appliance, comprising:

a housing;

a control circuitry which, responsive to a user's command, remotely controls the operation of the at least one electronic appliance, the control circuitry being located within the housing;

25 a digital voice recorder which records and plays back at least one audio signal, responsive to a user's command;

couple means to attach the digital voice recorder to the housing.

30 4. The URC according to claim 3, wherein the digital voice recorder comprises: a microphone to receive the audio signal;

a processor to process the received signal;

a memory to store the processed received signal;
a speaker to play back the audio signal;
a power supply, and
control circuitry to operate the digital voice recorder upon the user's command.

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5. The URC of claim 3, wherein the couple means comprises a Velcro fastener between the housing and the digital voice recorder.

6. The URC of claim 3, wherein the couple means comprises an elastic band
10 wrapping around the housing.

7. The URC of claim 3, wherein the couple means comprises at least one pair of clamps to attach the digital voice recorder to the housing.

8. A universal remote control ("URC") to control at least one electronic
15 appliance, comprising:

a housing;

a plurality of keys on the housing, comprising a set of numerical keys
corresponding to the numerals "0" through "9";

20 a control circuitry which, responsive to a user's pressing of the keys, remotely controls the operation of the at least one electronic appliance, the control circuitry being located within the housing;

a memory which stores the numerical keys entered by the user;

a display on the housing to display the numerical keys entered by the user.

25 9. The URC according to claim 8, further comprising:

a scratch pad control which, responsive to the user's command, activates the memory to store the numerical keys entered by the user as a telephone number.

10. The URC according to claim 4, wherein the memory comprises:

30 a first-in first-out ("FIFO") memory to store a plurality of signals;

memory control to selectively fast-forward, reverse, erase, playback, make permanent at least one of the plurality of the signals stored by the FIFO memory.

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